

HENRY S. HAMILTON.

APRIL 11, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURNHAM, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 731.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 731) granting an increase of pension to Henry S. Hamilton, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

This soldier, now 70 years of age, served as private and musician in Company I, Tenth U. S. Infantry, from October 14, 1854, to October 14, 1859, when honorably discharged, and again as musician in the band of the Third New Hampshire Infantry, from August 26, 1861, to August 31, 1862, when honorably discharged.

He is now a pensioner under the general law at \$6 per month on account of disease of stomach.

A claim under the general law, based upon rheumatism, was rejected in May, 1888, upon the ground of no record of treatment for said disability in the War Department and claimant's declared inability to show origin of the same in the service; and a claim on account of disease of liver was rejected at the same time upon the ground of no disability from the same since the filing of the claim.

He furnished some proof of fellow-workmen and acquaintances tending to show that he suffered from lameness of the back and rheumatism since his discharge, and medical testimony as to treatment for sciatic rheumatism in 1878 and since.

When last examined, in 1900, the board of surgeons rated him \$10 for disease of stomach, \$10 for rheumatism, and \$15 for skin disease, and the board of surgeons then stated that he had various-sized patches of psoriasis covering the lower abdomen, upper third of the thighs, and right side of back, from which silver-looking scales dropped while dressing.

Medical testimony filed with your committee shows that the beneficiary is suffering from enlargement of the joints of the fingers of both hands, especially of the right, which interferes with his work as a compositor; tenderness over both sciatic nerves, ankylosis of the left toe, which prevents him from walking more than a short distance, neuralgia of the right side of head, indigestion, enlarged spleen, irregular heart's action, and deafness of left ear.

Other proof filed shows that he is unable to perform manual labor, that he has no property and no income, and is dependent upon his pension.

The evidence indicates that the soldier's rheumatism is of probable service origin.

He is seriously disabled from that cause and unable to follow his occupation.

Considering his six years of faithful service, etc., the relief sought in the bill is deemed proper, and the passage of the bill is therefore recommended.